

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 NIC-01 SS-15 NSC-10

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PLAB

SUBJECT: EAST-WEST TRADE UNION CONFERENCE

1. SUMMARY: CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN L. MURRAY, TUC SECRETARY GENERAL AND ANDRE BERGERON, FO SECRETARY GENERAL, GAVE LATTER OPPORTUNITY TO STATE THAT FO, UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES, WILL PARTICIPATE IN AN EAST-WEST TRADE UNION CONFERENCE. END SUMMARY.

2. IN LETTER DATED 10 SEPTEMBER ADDRESSED TO BERGERON AND TO "OTHER WESTERN EUROPEAN NATIONAL CENTERS" MURRY RECALLED INFORMAL MEETING OF "WEST EUROPEAN" LEADING TRADE UNION REPRESENTATIVES" IN STOCKHOLM 10 AUGUST WHICH CONSIDERED PROPOSAL TO HOLD "CONSULTATIVE" MEETING OF EASTERN AND WESTERN
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EUROPEAN LABOR LEADERS. WHILE LETTER ASSERTED THAT NATIONAL

CENTERS WERE EXPECTED TO INFORM DGB (GERMANY) OF THEIR ATTITUDE ON FOREGOING PROPSAL, MURRAY EXPLAINED THAT PURPOSE OF THE LETTER WAS TO INFORM ADDRESSEES OF TUC GENERAL COUNCIL'S APPROVAL OF PROPOSED MEETING, ADDING THAT "TUC SHOULD BE GLAD TO BE INFORMED OF YOUR DECISION ON THIS MATTER." LETTER NOTED THAT IT WAS UNDERSTOOD IN STOCKHOLM THAT PROPOSED EAST-WEST MEETING MIGHT BE CONSIDERED INFORMALLY AT 28 SEPTEMBER MEETING OF ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

3. IN CURT REPLY ON 18 SEPTEMBER, BERGERON STATED THAT FO WAS "IN COMPLETE DISAGREEMENT WITH IDEA OF A CONSULTATIVE MEETING BETWEEN EAST AND WEST LABOR LEADERS FOR REASONS ALREADY EXPLAINED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS". HE ADDED THAT, REGARDLESS OF DECISION OF OTHERS, FO WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN SUCH A MEETING. BERGERON'S LETTER WENT ON TO MAKE POINT THAT SUBJECT MATTER FALLS UNQUESTIONABLY WITHIN JURISDICTION OF ICFTU AND NOT THAT OF ETUC, RAISING QUESTION OF HOW TO RECONCILE PROPOSED MEETING WITH THE POSITION ON RELATIONS WITH WFTU TAKEN BY ICFTU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING IN VIENNA. LETTER CONCLUDED WITH NOTE THAT COPY FO REPLY WAS BEING SENT TO DGB PRESIDENT.

4. COMMENT: BERGERON AND OTHER FO LEADERS FIND MURRAY'S INITIATIVE COMPLETELY UNCALLED FOR, AND SEE IN IT ANOTHER DISTURBING DEMONSTRATION OF TUC DETERMINATION TO PROMOTE EAST-WEST LABOR CONFERENCE. FO IS APPARENTLY EQUALLY DETERMINED TO RESIST SUCH CONFERENCE, EVEN AT RISK OF FINDING ITSELF ISOLATED ON WESTERN LABOR SCENE. LEST THERE BE ANY DOUBT ABOUT FO'S UNANIMITY IN OPPOSING EAST-WEST CONFERENCE, BERGERON TOOK THE PRECAUTION TO STATE SPECIFICALLY IN HIS LETTER THAT THE TUC LETTER WAS BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE FO EXECUTIVE BOARD, AND THAT HIS REPLY REFLECTED BOARD'S POSITION.

IRWIN

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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